



## **Notice of Funding Opportunity**

### **The American Center U.S. Embassy, Dhaka**

**March 2015**

#### **Overview**

The American Center at U.S. Embassy Dhaka promotes mutual understanding between the United States and Bangladesh, strengthens people-to-people ties between the two countries, and provides opportunities that expand the ways in which Bangladeshis can contribute to their country's further growth and development. In support of these aims, The American Center is pleased to announce its 2015 Open Competition for grant applications from non-governmental organizations, non-profit organizations, foundations, trusts, community-based organizations and educational institutions that have legal standing in Bangladesh and the appropriate registrations with the U.S. Government.

Eligible applicants should submit funding proposals for projects that improve social, educational, environmental, and economic conditions in Bangladesh, or support artistic and cultural activities. Funding requests can be as low as USD 3,000 (approximately 237,000 BDT) and should not exceed USD 25,000 (approximately 1,975,000 BDT); we expect most awards will be between USD 5,000 (395,000 BDT) and USD 10,000 (790,000 BDT). The American Center Dhaka reserves the ability to offer counter-proposals for amounts less than those included in the original proposals.

**The deadline for submitting applications is May 17, 2015, for projects that will be implemented between September 1, 2015, and September 30, 2016.** However, projects do not need to last the entire year, and those with shorter implementation periods are encouraged. The award of grants is subject to the availability of funding.

## Funding Priorities

In Fiscal Year 2015, The American Center Dhaka is soliciting proposals that empower youth, women and girls, and underrepresented/underprivileged populations through activities in the areas of:

- Democratic reform and good governance
- Human rights, tolerance and non-violence
- Education, both formal and informal
- Entrepreneurship
- Environment
- Arts and culture

## Project Criteria

American Center Dhaka funding is highly competitive. Successful project proposals that are selected for funding must:

- **Be SMART:** Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound.
- **Demonstrate organizational capacity and experience.** The applicant organization demonstrates the ability to successfully carry out the proposed activities, and has previously designed and implemented similar initiatives. The organization must also have been established for a minimum of six months prior to applying for a grant.
- **Show innovation and creativity.** The applicant organization articulates an innovative strategy or plan for implementing the proposed project within the specified time frame (maximum of one year).
- **Lead to Tangible Results.** The proposed project or activity will accomplish a concrete objective that benefits at least one of the priority/target populations.
- **Benefit or involve priority populations.** The proposed project will empower the population groups noted above.
- **Indicate a reasonable request.** The proposal and budget justification are complete and realistic in relation to the proposed activities and anticipated results.

- **Meet registration requirements.** The applicant organization must be registered in three U.S. Government systems: **DUNS**, **N-CAGE**, and **SAM**. Please see Section A (7) of the grants application form (“Details of Registration in U.S. Government Systems”) for more information. PDF files containing step-by-step instructions for meeting these registration requirements can be found below:  
[DUNS and N-CAGE Registration Instructions](#)  
[SAM Registration Instructions](#)
- **In addition, applicant organizations must have legal standing in Bangladesh.**
- **Meet administrative requirements.** The applicant organization must have a bank account and reliable access to the internet.

### **Ineligible Applicants**

- Commercial firms and for-profit entities are not eligible to apply for funding from The American Center Dhaka.

### **Who Can Apply**

The American Center Dhaka *will only accept grant applications* from non-governmental organizations, non-profit organizations, foundations, trusts, community-based organizations and educational institutions that have legal standing in Bangladesh, or that are able to obtain legal standing prior to accepting a grant award. Applicant organizations must also have the proper registrations with the U.S. Government or demonstrate that they are in the process of acquiring these registrations *before receiving a grant*.

### **How to Apply**

To apply for an American Center Dhaka grant, interested applicants must complete an application form that requires detailed information about the proposed project and budget request. All of these forms can be found on the Embassy’s website at <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov/grants.html>

**For More Information:** Please send inquiries to: [DhakaGrants@state.gov](mailto:DhakaGrants@state.gov).